

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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EA-11 EUR-25 DRC-01 (ISO) W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7712

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12783

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: OTHER COUNTRIES' EVALUATION OF INDIA'S
CONTOL SYSTEM

1. WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ASIST AND INDUCE THE GOI TO DEVELOP A MORE EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC CONTROL SYSTEM FOR OPIUM. IN VIEW OF THE STILL UNSETTLED STATE OF US-INDO RELATIONS AND THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THE GOI TO ANY EXTERNAL "INTERFERENCE", WHETHER ASSISTANCE, TRAINING OR OTHERWISE, OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN VERY LIMITED. WE HAVE DEVELOPED AND EXPECT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION THOUGH IN PRACTICE THIS TENDS TO BE PRIMARILY A FLOW OF US INFORMATION TO THE GOI. THE GOI IS CAUTIOUS ABOUT A REVERSE FLOW UNDOUBTEDLY BECAUSE IT FEARS THAT SUCH INFORMATION MAY BE USED AGAINST IT. SOME LIMITED TRAINING ASSISTANCE (IF IT IS COVERED BY SOME EUPHRMISM SUCH AS"SEMINOR") MAY BE POSSIBLE. ANY LARGE SCALE INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDIAN NARCOTIC SITUATION CURRENTLY IS AND PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT REMAINS THAT SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC OPIUM LEAKAGE DOES OCCUR AND GOI OFFICIALS PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGE THIS.
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MOST OF THIS (99 PERCENT ACCORDING TO GOI OFFICIALS)

PROBABLY REMAINS IN INDIA FOR TRADITIONAL THOUGH ILLEGAL USE.
THERE IS UNDOUBTEDLY SOME LEAKAGE INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES,

PARTICULARLY SRI LANKA, AND PERHAPS ACROSS THE ARABIAN SEA.
THERE IS ALSO APPRECIABLE SMUGGLING INTO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN
AND PERHAPS SOME FROM BURMA. IT IS LESS CLEAR HOW MUCH INDIAN
OPIUM (OR OPIUM TRANSITTING INDIA) MOVES ON OUTSIDE SOUTH ASIA
AND WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SIGNIFICANT SHIPMENTS TO THE
UNITED STATES. IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL PROBLEM WE
ARE CONCENTRATING OUR EFFORTS ON DEVELOPING FURTHER INTELLIGENCE
ON THIS SUBJECT.

3. WHETHER OR NOT INDIAN OPIUM IS PRESENTLY LEAVING SOUTH ASIA,
IT IS CLEARLY IN OUR INTEREST TO FOSTER ANY DEVELOPEMENT THAT
WOULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVED INDIAN CONTROL SYSTEM. AS NOTED ABOVE,
USG BILATERAL MEASURES, WHETHER POSITIVE (OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE) OR
NEGATIVE (THREATS OF WHATEVER NATURE) ARE LIKELY TO BE INEFFECTIVE.
HOWEVER, THE GOI IS EXTREAMELY SENSITIVE TO INTERNATIONAL
CRITICISM AND IF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, PERHAPS AT THE 1974
CND MEETING, WERE TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN IMPROVEMENTS IN INDIA'S
INEFFECTIVE CONTROL SYSTEM THE LIKELIHOOD OF GOI MOVING TOWARDS
IMPROVED CONTROLS WOULD BE ENHANCED.

4. IN ORDER TO APPRAISE THE POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING SUCH
MULTILATERAL EFFORTS WE NEED TO HAVE A BETTER EVALUATION OF THE
ATTITUDES OF OTHER PRINCIPLE COUNTRIES, FOR WHICH ILLICIT TRAFFIC
COULD BE DESTINED. (INDIA'S NEIGHBORS, POSSIBLE TRANSIT COUNTRIES
SUCH AS SINGAPORE AND ULTIMATE DESTINATIONS SUCH AS JAPAN
OR EUROPE OR CANDADA;) AND OF THE PRINCIPLE PURCHASES OF LICIT
INDIAN OPIUM FROM OUR CONTACTS HERE WE KNOW OF NO COUNTRY
(OTHER THAN SRI LANKA) WHICH IS CURRENTLY ACTIVELY CONCERNED
ABOUT SHIPMENTS OF INDIAN OPIUM. WE ALSO KNOW THAT OUR EMBASSIES
IN S.E. ASIA ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY TRANSSHIPMENTS OR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CONCERN. WE ARE AWARE OF SEVERAL OTHER COUNTREIS
CONCERN WITH TRANSSHIPMENTS OF HASHISH AND HASHISH OIL THROUGH
INDIA BUT BE BELIEVE THIS IS A SEPARATE PROBLEM FROM OPIUM.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S AND GENEVA'S APPRAISAL
OF OTHER COUNTRIES' ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE INDIAN SITUATION.
ARE ANY COUNTRIES CURRENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT PRESENT OR POSSIBLE
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INDIAN ORIGIN SHIPMENTS. DEPENDING ON THE RESPONSE TO THIS
INQUIRY WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A MULTILATERAL
INITIATIVE WITH HARVEY WELLMAN, S/NM DEPUTY TO SENIOR ADVISOR AND US
ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIVE AT 25TH CND MEETING WHEN HE VISITS
NEW DELHI IN DECEMBER.
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